

INTRODUCTION:

CBO is a village initiative program that was founded by Samuel Maritim, Josiah Tarus, Dr Peter Cheboss Jr and Symon Kibitok in 2007. It is concerned mainly with raising the living standards of the four villages of Kiptenden, Tulon, Kapchepsir and Kona mainly through creating awareness about important social issues like education, HIV and Malaria prevention. The organization has been partnering with college students from Baraton University under the leadership of Josiah Tarus and Josiah Letting ([\[1\]](#)), and

Moi University under leadership of Peter Cheboss and Symon Kibitok.

The organization has also recently partnered with Kapsabet Christian Intermediate Technology Center CITC to seek to provide cheap and safe sources of energy. CBO also hopes to tap into the ICT technology and human resource from CITC to train villagers and school Children on how to operate and use computers. [\[2\]](#)

The groups also has written to the Constituency Development Fund in Emgwen Constituency to request for funding to keep the project Running, but it is yet to receive the funds.

[\[3\]](#) We have also requested a grant from Wesleyan University grant office to help in future sustenance of the program. [\[4\]](#) Samuel Maritim is a Chemistry Major in Wesleyan University. He holds an Certificate in Information Communication Technology, ICT, and worked at the Wesleyan Information Technology Services Department, ITS imaging and ghosting Wesleyan Computers, connecting and repairing the multi-media systems in the classrooms and computer labs, and assisting faculty and students with connectivity and other problems. Josiah Tarus is a business finance major and a senior at Baraton University. He holds a CPA in accounting, and diploma in Computer and software engineering, and has been working at the Baraton University (computer)Library. Peter Cheboss Jr is a Medical Intern at the MOi Teaching and Referral Hospital Eldoret, the Medicine campus of Moi University . He holds a certificate in ICT from Eldore Polytechnic. Symon M Kibitok holds a diploma in Computer Science from Moi University. He Interned with the Safaricom company and is currently working at a Safaricom M-Pesa (mobile Banking) station. Josiah Letting holds a Business Management degree from Baraton University. Job Ogutu is a freshman at Wesleyan University, and also holds an ICT certificate. He is also currently employed by the Wesleyan Information Technology service. William Ndugire is a chemistry major at Wesleyan University and also works with the Wesleyan Information Technology Service.

Link to our team page [\[5\]](#)

PROCESS:

Our team's project will be to distribute the 100 laptops to school children of ages 6-12 of Kiptenden Primary school. The school has over 300 children, and we have to figure out the most efficient and meaningful way to cover them all. While we may want all the 7th and 8th graders to be computer proficient before they go to high school, we also recognize that it is very important to set strong foundations for the much younger children as well.

The first phase of the project will involve setting up a network to connect all the computers together, and to keep track of each individual computer and the progress of the person who owns it. We will seek to purchase a generator, a few back-up solar panels, batteries and the wires needed for the connections. We will also set up a cyber station using 10 of the computers to train the villagers and outsiders at a small fee that we will use for the day to day running of the Kids program like buying fuel for the generator, paying the connections fees and providing light snacks for the kids once in a while. The next phase will be to train the teachers and children on how to use, operate, and take care of the laptop. Once we are satisfied with their progress, we will then hand them the computers and assign them simple group tasks. As their knowledge increases, we will assign individual tasks, evaluate them, and use the evaluations to assist those in need of help. The kids' program will be conducted after school, from 3-6pm for 3 days a week and 4-6pm for two days a week (to allow the kids to do play sports as well). We will also conduct weekend programs from 11-3pm. Whenever possible, and with the individual teachers' permission, the children may be allowed to bring their laptops to class. This way, the children will for example, be able to 'see for themselves' whatever it is that they are learning in class, be it the Pyramids of Egypt, the geographical locations of various countries, the rhythms of the heart, record songs and lectures etc. Towards the end of the summer session, we will have the kids do group presentation to the whole village

An integral part of the project is to ensure that the project continues to be sustained after the summer, and we will need additional funds in order to do this. We also want the program to compliment the normal school curricula, and help the kids get quality education. We will assign some members in the group, to assist teach the normal school curricula with the aim of making the school to be the best in the district. We will get volunteer student teachers from University of Easter Africa Baraton, and Moi University to teach the normal curricula. The Kapsabet Christian Intermediate Technology Center (CITC) has also agreed to partner with us. They will provide us with technological assistance during set up, and repair any the computers if any computer breaks down. The CITC volunteers will also teach the children and the villagers about safe and sustainable sources of energy like biogas and solar panels. CITC has also agreed to help us raise sustenance funds whenever they can. As for the funding, we have formed a committee to look around and secure us more funds.

The Baraton University community outreach program has agreed to partner with us and will ensure that the program stays operational. They have also agreed to receive and store the laptops on our behalf since they have the capacity to receive packages of over 250Kgs. They will provide the human resource, technical and financial assistance whenever needed and whenever they can. They will also be responsible for managing the program.

As the founder of the project, and apart from tutoring the computer sessions and ensuring good connectivity, I will be overseeing the entire process for the duration of the summer after which the student Leader from Baraton University will take over. I will also be liaising with, and meeting up potential donors and partners of the project including the appropriate offices of the Ministry of education.

Kiptenden Primary School is located in Kiptenden Village, in the Nandi district- Rift Valley Kenya. The Village is one of the poorest villages and has the highest illiteracy level in Kenya, with most of the villagers having dropped out of school before completing High school education. Only 5/1000 people have made it to University. Kiptenden Primary School, is severely understaffed, has acute shortage of books and stationery and children are always under immense social, and financial pressure to drop out of school. The problem facing children's education in villages is very real to us since two of our members grew up and have family in Kiptenden .

Our team is strongly convinced that children are important agents in society. The big question, then, is, "How can the success of the children as agents of development be brought about?" Do we let the children drop out of school, join drug dens, consume illicit brews, engage in dangerous sexual misadventures in this age of HIV/AIDS and perish, or do we groom them up, provide them with solid foundation that will propel them into greater heights of prosperity? We believe the traditional set-up where power, status and wisdom are associated with old age, where "children are to be seen not to be heard" is wrong, ill-conceived, and suppressive to children. We believe that society's progress (or lack thereof), is a direct result and reflection of how we treat our children. With help from Baraton University Outreach Program and the Christian Intermediate Technology Center (CITC), we have been deeply involved with children emancipation programs in villages, ranging from volunteer teaching during college recess, mentoring, distributing books and mosquito nets to ensure they stay in good health and fundraising for those who proceed to high school and with OLPC's help, we can raise the living standards Children further.

Children are always eager to learn and help others, often play important roles in households whereby older ones take care of their younger siblings, and since children often communicate and share more than adults, they are better positioned to pass on their knowledge from school to their families and thus influence the greater community. Moreover whatever children learn is more likely to be applied for the rest of their lives. Since children are the future parents and grandparents, they are important agents of change and thus the OLPC program is able to reach youth, society and future generations. Our society's ultimate agent of change is the Child Brain Power! We believe that allowing children to work together with their peers will show them that they are themselves a source of knowledge: and besides having free access to networked computers will provide them with unlimited source of access to knowledge and helpers. With the programs in the XO laptops, children's future couldn't have looked any brighter. We believe that just like living a language is the best way to learn it, living math, English, Science, geography or history is the best way for children to learn them. The XO laptops will allow children to live their education. They can always work at their own pace, play around with the programs, look up info online, access online books that would've otherwise been unavailable to them. They can also write, share their stories, ideas, and questions with their peers worldwide. Most importantly, children can PLAY and have FUN commensurate with the age without endangering their lives in dangerous activities. Just as in adults, ownership is a very important aspect to children. Since Children will own their laptops and projects, they'll have time to build personal relationships with their projects, discover, research and use programs not it because it's computer time, or because it's a Tuesday, or because the teacher said so, but because they are intrigued, and want to. Looks like life and education just got more FUN.

Baraton University will help us receive and store the laptops. They will also provide us with human resources and support as needed. We have also applied for funding from Wesleyan University, the constituency development fund, and will fundraise regularly. We also plan to use ten of the computers in a village cyber where we'll charge non-students. Three of us have certificates in ICT a degree in computer science, a CPA, in addition to the degrees we're pursuing. Training sessions will be held after classes end from 3-6pm, and on weekends and full-time in April, August and December holidays.

NAME	SCHOOL	MAJOR(S)	Class YEAR	EMAIL
Samuel Maritim (Leader & contact person)	Wesleyan University	Chemistry ICT Certificate	'10	smaritim@wesleyan.edu
Josiah Tarus (Point Person at UEAB)	University of Eastern Africa Baraton (UEAB)	Accounting (CPA) Business Finance, ICT Diploma	'10	Jtarus81@yahoo.com
Peter Cheboss Jr	Moi University	Medicine, ICT certificate	'10	Cheboss_jr@yahoo.com
Job Ogutu	Wesleyan University	Undeclared, ICT certificate	'12	jogutu@wesleyan.edu
Symon M. Kibitok	Moi University	ICT Diploma Computer science	'08	martim8727@gmail.com
Josiah Letting	UEAB	Financial accounting	'08	josiahlet84@yahoo.com
Elisha Korir	Kiptenden Primary	Education Diploma Teacher		
William Ndugire	Wesleyan University	Chemistry ICT Certificate	'10	wndugire@wesleyan.edu

- We will seek to buy generator, solar panels, projection screen, projector, 3 printers, visas, vaccination, rent food, transport, *Yellow Fever*: \$84
- *Typhoid*: \$52
- *Malaria*: \$10
- *Hep A*: \$29
- *Pneumonia*: \$35